

From: Patrick Waites
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think the proposed settlement is a bad idea. Here is my reasoning why.

In the early 90's there were three major competing desktop operating systems: Microsoft's Windows, IBM's OS2Warp, and Apple's Macintosh. Then Microsoft launched into there current business plan and killed all competition. OS2Warp is dead, Macintosh has lost major percentage points in the market and very little if any other products have appeared. During all this Microsoft continues to reign and grow. There is Linux, but he average user will not use Linux. The learning curve is too high. Microsoft's business practices stifled the market from presenting competing Operating systems. Developers only write software for Microsoft. Other existing operating systems cannot run software written for Microsoft unless it is recompiled and modified. Even with sanctions made against Microsoft, Developers will still only write software for Microsoft. There are not any other Operating systems that can run these programs. That means that MS Windows will still be the only Operating system for people to use. The only way to stimulate competition in the market again is to some how make it possible for other operating systems to be created that can run software written for Microsoft and still be just as easy to use. There are not many if any candidates for this. I do not see how the current proposal will help this issue. All it does is slap Microsoft in the wrist and allow them to still be the only game in town.

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